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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/069,574

08/01/2002

Gerard Ribes

1721-49

1529

21559

7590

04/19/2006

CLARK & ELBING LLP
101 FEDERAL STREET
BOSTON, MA 02110

EXAMINER

WEDDINGTON, KEVIN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1614

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/069,574

Applicant(s)

RIBES ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin E. Weddington

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1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-10 and 12-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-10 and 12-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-23 are presented for examination.

Applicants' response filed January 11, 2006 has been received and entered.

Accordingly, the rejection made under 35 USC 102(b) as set forth in the previous Office action dated November 7, 2005 at pages 2-3 is hereby withdrawn since the prior art, Sauvaire et al., Diabetes, 1998, Vol. 47, No. 2, pp. 206-210; did not teach the 4-hydroxyisoleucine as an insulin sensitizer or insulin mimetic. The rejection made under 35 USC 103 as set forth in the previous Office action dated November 7, 2005 at page 3-5 is hereby withdrawn since the Sauvaire et al. reference does not teach the 4-hydroxyisoleucine as an insulin sensitizer or insulin mimetic and is combined with insulin (applicants' specification does show working examples for the instant combination).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for treating Type II diabetes, does not reasonably provide enablement for treating a patient that has or is at risk of developing one or more syndromes associated with insulin resistance; developing insulin resistance; developing hyperinsulinemia; developing insulin associated with ageing; developing one or more of the illness associated with obesity; and developing Type I diabetes. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to

which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

In this regard, the application disclosure and claims have been compared per factors indicated in the decision In re Wands, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir., 1988) as to undue experimentation.

The factors include:

- 1) the quantity of experimentation necessary
- 2) the amount of direction or guidance provided
- 3) the presence or absence of working examples
- 4) the nature of the invention
- 5) the state of the art
- 6) the relative skill of those in the art
- 7) the predictability of the art and
- 8) the breadth of the claims

The instant specification fails to provide guidance that would allow the skilled artisan background sufficient to practice that instant invention without resorting to undue experimentation in view of further discussion below.

The nature of the invention, state of the prior art, relative skill of those in the art and the predictability of the art

The claimed invention relates to a method of inducing an insulin sensitizing or insulin mimetic effect in a tissue of a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient 4-hydroxyisoleucine and/or the lactonic form thereof.

The relative skill of those in the art is generally that of a Ph.D. or M.D.

The present invention is unpredictable unless experimentation is shown for the administration of 4-hydroxyisoleucine to treat a patient that has or is at risk of developing one or more syndromes associated with insulin resistance; developing insulin resistance; developing hyperinsulinemia; developing insulin associated with ageing; developing one or more of the illness associated with obesity; and developing Type I diabetes.

The amount of direction or guidance provided and the presence or absence of working examples

The working examples are limited to the administration of 4-hydroxyisoleucine to treat Type II diabetes.

Working examples show the combination of 4-hydroxyisoleucine combine with insulin.

No working examples showing the administration of 4-hydroxyisoleucine will treat a patient that has or is at risk of developing one or more syndromes associated with insulin resistance; developing insulin resistance; developing hyperinsulinemia; developing insulin associated with ageing; developing one or more of the illness associated with obesity; and developing Type I diabetes.

The quantity of experimentation necessary

Applicants have failed to provide guidance as to how the administration of 4-hydroxyisoleucine will treat a patient that has or is at risk of developing one or more syndromes associated with insulin resistance; developing insulin resistance;

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developing hyperinsulinemia; developing insulin associated with ageing; developing one or more of the illness associated with obesity; and developing Type I diabetes.


Therefore, undue experimentation would be required to practice the invention as it is claimed in its current scope.

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-23 are not allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin E. Weddington whose telephone number is (571)272-0587. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:00 am-7:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low can be reached on (571)272-0951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kevin E. Weddington
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1614

K. Weddington